implementation. It gives, inter-alia, priority to primary education and adult literacy programmes with an accent on equity. The emphasis is now on toning up its implementation and stepping of resources for education so that there is better linkages of access, retention and quality at all stages of education throughout the country.

Irrigation Capacity

842. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total irrigations capacity created in Maharashtra during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government propose to launch new irrigation projects in the State to boost the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof andthe estimated capacity likely to be increased during the forth coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) The total irrigation capacity targeted to be created during the last 2 years i.e., 1995-96 and 1996-97 in the State of Maharashtra through Major & Medium Irrigation Projects and Minor Irrigation schemes was about 176.80 thousand hectares (provisional).

(b) & (c) Details of the programme for Major & Medium irrigation projects included by Government of Maharashtra in their Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) are as under:

Sl.	Sector/Scheme	IXth Plan (1997-2002) Outlay (Rupees in lakhs)
A.	Major Irrigation Projects (Except Maharashtra Krishna Valley Development Corpn.)	
1.	Major Projects in advanced stage of construction	76951.00
2.	Major Projects in initial stage of construction	73635.00
3.	Common Schemes	37497.00
	Total Major Projects	188084.00
B.	Medium Projects:	
1.	Residual payments for completed medium projects	2546.00
2.	Medium Projects in advanced stage of construction	9968.00
3.	Medium Projects in initial stage of construction	70750.00
4.	New schemes of VIII Plan (1992-97)	42449.00
	Total Medium Projects	125713.00

The physical targets for creation of irrigation potential through Major & Medium and Minor irrigation projects in Maharashtra during the Ninth Five Year Plan is 2283 thousand hectares.

[English]

Irrigation Projects for Deforestation

843. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE:

SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV:

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals of Irrigation Projects from certain States for deforestation especially from Maharashtra are pending with Union Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof with names of these projects, State-wise;

(c) whether delay in approval to these Irrigation Project Works has hampered an overall development programme in these State;

(d) whether the Government propose to accord approval to these proposals early;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government have been requested to keep the Irrigation project works out of the purview of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; and

(g) if so, the details thereof with action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information on State-wise names of irrigation projects pending with the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) to (e) The delays in taking final decision on the proposals generally take place due to incomplete information furnished by the State Governments on various points including in respect of making equivalent non-forest land available for compensatory afforestation. As and when all essential details in respect of the proposal are received, they are examined expeditiously for final decision.

(f) and (g) A reference has been recently received from Shri Suresh R. Jadhav, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, for keeping irrigation project works out of the purview of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The issue has been examined by the Ministry and it has been found that such exemption will require amendments to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Since implementation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is one of the issues presently under consideration of Hon'ble Supreme Court, no further action on the matter can be taken till final judgement in the case.

Pollution by Thermal Power Plants

844. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the three thermal power plants in the capital account for almost 16 percent of the air pollutants floating in Delhi's atmosphere;

(b) whether small industries scattered all over Delhi including the thickly populated residential areas, are also responsible for the air pollution and their industrial waste is causing toxic materials to be leached in the soil, affecting ground water course; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) According to Central Pollution Control Board the Industries contribute to about 29 per cent of air pollution load generated in Delhi, out of which 16 per cent is contributed by the three thermal power plants. Untreated industrial effluents may leach in to the soil and contaminate ground water. The steps taken/proposed to be taken to prevent and control air and water pollution problems posed by power plants and industries located in Delhi include the following:

— Directions have been issued to the three thermal power plants in Delhi under Section 5 to the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to submit detailed action plan for utilisation of flyash.

— Use of superior quality of coal has been suggested till availability of beneficiated coal.

— A notification on use of beneficiated coal by thermal power plants has been issued on 19th September, 1997 which would be effective from Ist June, 2001.

— Shifting of polluting industries from non-conforming areas to the conforming areas.

— Construction and commissioning of 15 common effluent treatment plants in the industrial estates at a cost of about Rs. 90 crores. Out of which Rs. 50 crores have already been made available as subsidy by the Central Government and Delhi Government.

[Translation]

Facilities at Tourist Spots in Delhi

845. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the tourists, other citizens and institutions have complained about uncleanliness and low standard facilities at the tourists spots and other places in Delhi where the tourists are lodged because the Municipal Corporation of Delhi is not being provided with the adequate financial aid according to its demands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has made certain recommendations and expressed concern over the such matters during the hearing of public interest petitions;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to implement any time bound preventive action plan in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which it would be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JANA): (a) No such complaint has been received by the Department of Tourism.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has directed the local bodies to improve the state of cleanliness in Delhi so as to satisfactorily ensure the collection, transportation and disposal of garbage/waste and also the construction/installation of incinerators in all the hospitals/Nursing Homes with 50 beds and above. However, no specific directions have been given for tourist spots in particular.

(e) and (f) Number of steps have been taken by the NCT Delhi Government through local bodies to keep the